

~~ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY~~

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11 DEC 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration

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FROM:

  
Director of Logistics

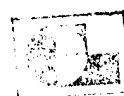
SUBJECT: Deactivation of Pneumatic Tube Systems

1. This memorandum is to inform you of our intention to deactivate permanently both the automatic and conventional pneumatic tube systems in the Original Headquarters Building (OHB) at the inauguration of construction in the Backfill Program. This could occur as soon as six months from now. I would appreciate your informing the other Deputies that a Headquarters Notice to this effect is forthcoming.

2. The determination to terminate these systems stems from several factors which, taken together, indicate strongly that it is a change whose time has come.

- There is no tube system in the New Headquarters Building (NHB), and there are no plans to extend the OHB systems to the NHB.
- The Communications Center, the focal point for much pneumatic tube system traffic, is scheduled to move to the NHB.
- Tube system usage registered a slow growth during the first ten years of the system's life, was stable for the next ten years, and has shown a slow--but steady--decline over the last 6-7 years. This is in keeping with our increasing emphasis on electronic transmission, a trend which has rendered the tube system something of an anachronism.
- A recent survey of automatic tube system usage shows that: 30 percent of the system's 148 stations have been deactivated over the years; of the 100 remaining active stations, 43 average only 1-10 incoming tubes per day; 41 average from 11-50 incoming tubes per day; and only 16 average over 50 incoming tubes per day. In sum, a very small segment of the user population, mostly elements of the Directorate of Operations (DO), exercises the system heavily. The DO combined registries, with their APARS equipment, should provide a reasonable replacement for the tube system.

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- The conventional tube system is a point-to-point system: that is, send and receive lines run directly between two stations. A carrier sent from one station can only go to the station to which the line runs (unlike the automatic system which is a true network allowing cross-communications). It serves only five customers: DI/CPAS/Operations Center; Communications Center; DA/P&PD/ETECs; DO/PCS [ ] and an OSO element. Thirty percent of the traffic on this system will disappear when the Communications Center moves to the NHB. Improved electronic communications between CPAS and P&PD/ETEC could well delete another 50 percent of the traffic on this system.
  - Most offices in OHB will be moved during the building upgrade work and resettled in new permanent locations, many of which will not be served by the tube system.

3. All told, we seem to be dealing with a dying means of communication. It would be a costly venture to reroute major portions of the approximately 33 miles of tube through the OHB to prolong the life of an antiquated system available to only half the compound and whose present user population is dwindling. Thus, we intend to remove the automatic and conventional tube systems from the OHB at the first opportunity, and put the considerable space it currently occupies to a different use.

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